MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the Government cannot imagine occasions when the Officer will urgently be needed by the ryots?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Evidently, you want to thrust other things here. I do not know whether they are relevant.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): As a matter of fact—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You want an answer to the question where the Section Officer lives and whether he can be asked to live in another place.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, this is only in order to remove the grievances arising out of the Section Officer residing in a particular place.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It does not arise as a supplementary question here.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): If the supplementary question does not arise, I have no desire to press it. Cannot the Government imagine several occasions when the Section Officer will be wanted very badly by the ryots—

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): I rise to a point of order. The member is making a speech.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Cannot Government imagine an occasion when the Section Officer will be badly wanted by the ryots in connection with the irrigation of paddy fields and when he will not be at the Section Office so long as he lives in a village which some classes of people are prohibited from entering?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Government are capable of imagining such a situation but cannot act always upon imagination. Moreover, it is not natural.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Would not such a situation arise naturally in the ordinary course of events?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The proper way for the ryots would be to represent the matter to the Government and pray that this grievance should be removed.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): But this is a standing grievance. Perhaps the Government have no idea of the hardship suffered by the people on account of this.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: But the Chief Secretary says that he has no idea that there is such a grievance.

(The President arrived at 11-58 A. M. and took the Chair.)

Deputation of Officers for Purchase of Ganja.

101. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the name or names of the persons deputed to British India for the purchase of ganja during the last six years (1096-1101);

(*b*) the place where the person so deputed was posted in Travancore when he was sent to British India for the same;

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[Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.]

(*c*) the place or places from which the persons so deputed were allowed to claim their travelling allowance;

(*d*) whether there are instances in which persons posted on duty in Central or North Travancore were ordered first to go to Trivandrum and then proceed to British India, thereby enabling them to claim travelling allowance from Trivandrum and back to Trivandrum;

(*e*) if the answer to part (*d*) is in the affirmative, the number of such instances and the reasons for the same; and

(*f*) whether the same person or officer was deputed continuously for several years and the reasons for the same?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) 1. Excise Inspector Mr. K. Kesava Pillai.
2. Excise Inspector Mr. S. Sankara Aiyar.
3. Excise Inspector Mr. M. Matevan Pillai.
4. Assistant Excise Commissioner Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.
5. Excise Inspector Mr. N. S. Narayana Pillai.
6. Do. Do.
7. Do. Do.
8. Do. Do.
9. Excise Inspector Mr. Sivasankara Pillai.
10. Do. Do.
11. Excise Inspector Mr. N. S. Narayana Pillai.
12. Excise Inspector Mr. C. Gopala Pillai.
13. Excise Inspector Mr. N. S. Narayana Pillai.

(*b*) and (*c*) 1. Alleppey
2. Vaikam.
3. Shencotta.
4. Tamaracolam.
5. Trivandrum.
6. Tiruvalla.
7. Do.
8. Do.
9. Trivandrum.
10. Do.
11. Tiruvalla.
12. Quilon.
13 Tiruvalla.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) It is usual for the officer selected for deputation to be called to the Excise Commissioner's office for receiving the money necessary for the purchase and transport of ganja from the licensees of the store-houses, as well as for personal instructions regarding the quality, the price and other matters connected with the purchase. The officer goes to Trivandrum in the interests of public service and he draws travelling allowance under the rules.

(*f*) The matter is one in the discretion of the head of the department. It is reported that no officer was deputed continuously for several years, that Inspector Mr. N. S. Narayana Pillai was selected on four consecu-

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tive occasions because he was found to be reliable and capable of selecting good quality of ganja and because reliable men with experience in the purchase of ganja are required to purchase the best quality at cheap rates.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With regard to the answer to part (*d*) of my question, may I know whether the Government are not incurring additional and unnecessary expenditure by calling officers posted in North Travancore to proceed to Trivandrum and then to British India and then again to Trivandrum and lastly to North Travancore and claim the travelling allowance for all these journeys when there are Excise officers in Trivandrum ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : In view of what is stated in the answer to part (*e*) of the question and the advantages gained thereby, which are also stated there, the Government do not consider this expenditure unnecessary.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With regard to the answer to part (*f*) of the question, may I know whether it is the opinion of the Government that Mr. N. S. Narayana Pillai is the only reliable officer in the whole Excise Department?

MR T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The list shows that he was not the only officer selected.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know what the particular reason which weighed with the Government for deputing a particular officer continuously several times?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The reason is mentioned in the answer to part (*f*).

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the Government believe that there are no reliable Excise officers in Trivandrum ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No. That does not follow.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know what the objection was to depute any one of the Excise officers who were in Trivandrum? The Government could then have saved a large sum of money.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He was chosen because he was found to be fit to do the work.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Do the Government consider other officers unfit?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It does not follow that the other officers are unfit. Mr. Narayana Pillai was found to be a fit man to purchase ganja and therefore he was sent. For some years he was sent. Afterwards others were also chosen.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to consider the question of posting a reliable and capable man in Trivandrum, so that the unnecessary expenditure may be avoided?

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MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The purchase of ganja and opium is not the only item of work that has to be done by the officer. He has to do other works also. For this reason, the Government cannot post a particular person in a particular place for all time.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether any expert knowledge is required for the purchase of ganja?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is all explained in the answer to part (*f*) of the question.

Case against the Navasakti.

102. MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they took any action in respect of an article in the *Navasakti*, and, if so, what action and in respect of what article and the reasons for taking such action ; and

(*b*) whether that paper was compelled by the Government to apologise for writing it and whether that paper apologised ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) In respect of the leading article under the heading "മി: വാട്ട് സുവാരത്തന്നാ?" published in the issue of the *Navasakti*, dated the 15th Mithunam 1101, the Government issued a warning to the printer and publisher of the newspaper, as the Government were satisfied that the article offended a gainst the provisions of sub-section (i) of Section 5 of Regulation V of 1101.

(*b*) The Government cannot compel an apology. An expression of regret for having published the offending article was, however, published in a subsequent issue of the paper.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With regard to the answer to part (*b*) of the question, may I know whether it was on account of the warning given to the paper that it apologised ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It might be so.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What is the offence that the paper committed in its leading article under reference ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I would refer the member to the answer to part (*a*).

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I want to know whether it was a defamatory article.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is certainly clear from the answer given there.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know why the paper was not prosecuted ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government took a generous view of the case and did not want to resort to extreme measures.

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